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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Institutional developments related to the strengthening of international organizations in the area of multilateral trade

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In resolution 45/201, the General Assembly, stressing the principle of free and fair global trade, which should be conducive to a significant enhancement of the trade and development prospects of all countries, in particular developing countries, and the need for strengthening institutional arrangements in the area of international trade, with a view to reinforcing further the multilateral trading system, reaffirmed Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/57, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on institutional developments, taking into account all relevant proposals related to the strengthening of international organizations in the area of multilateral trade. In preparing that report, the Secretary-General was requested to solicit the views of all Governments and the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system on this matter.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has entrusted the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) with the preparation of the report requested. On 17 April 1991, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD wrote to 25 executive heads of the specialized

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* E/1991/100.

agencies and relevant organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, requesting replies by 17 May 1991. In order to facilitate consideration of the issues involved, his letter was accompanied by a note providing historical background with respect to proposals (both from Governments and the academic community) for strengthening international organizations in the area of multilateral trade, beginning with the negotiation of the Havana Charter for an International Trade Organization and including ideas that have been presented recently. The revised note will be made available to Governments when soliciting comments pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/201.

3. As at 29 May 1991, replies had been received from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization and the secretariat of the International Law Commission. Other organizations have indicated that replies will be forthcoming.

4. An oral report will be presented to the Council at its second regular session of 1991. Appropriate steps will be taken to solicit the views of all Governments, with the objective of submitting a final report to the General Assembly for consideration at its forty-sixth session.